

Dry Drayton Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online
at bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get
in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central
Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled
since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

Indexing starts with newspapers of March 1897

1900 09 15

An inquest was held at Dry Drayton on the body of a seven-year old girl. Her brother said she had been sent to the pond to fetch some water. She was splashing him when she fell on to her face in the water & went under. Two men got her out, but she was dead. It was the only water supply for nearby houses and it was customary to send children to fetch it. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

1900 10 22

Properties at Dry Drayton and Comberton were submitted to public auction. The first lot consisted of the freehold licensed premises at Drayton known by the sign of the Queen's Head and three cottages in the rear. It was knocked down to Fenstanton brewery for £320. They also became the purchasers of an acre of land at Comberton at a price of £52 10s.

1905 11 04

Justices awarded compensation under the scheme for reducing the number of public houses. They included the Windmill; Dry Drayton 05 11 04b-d

1908 07 24

Coton Horticultural Show, held in the Rectory grounds, attracted a good deal of attention. Villagers exhibited quite a remarkable collection of vegetables and a succession of cricket matches were played including Girls versus Men and Coton boys v Dry Drayton boys. A string band from St Catharine's and the King's College quartette provided acceptable music and dancing concluded the evening programme. CWN 08 07 24

1909 07 02

A number of village public houses are no longer economic and should close, magistrates were told. They included Prince of Wales, Dry Drayton— CWN 09 07 02

1909 11 05

A school should be established at Childerley Gate in the centre of a thinly-populated district that was remote from all the surrounding villages. At present children were being conveyed to Bourn. If a school for 80 was built some children from Scotland Farm would go there, as it was nearer than Dry Drayton. But Ald Frohock maintained such a large school was not needed and it would be better to staff existing schools better 09 11 05

1911 03 17

Public house licences: Willingham 'Rose & Crown' *& 'Black Lion', Swavesey 'Little Watch' & 'Black Horse', Dry Drayton 'Prince of Wales', Waterbeach 'Wheatsheaf', Impington 'Chequers', Cottenham 'Turks Head' – 11 03 17c & d

1911 04 07

Dry Drayton domestic discord – 11 04 07c

1911 07 14

The Crystal Palace pub in Mill Road Cambridge was difficult to supervise, police reported. The only way to get to the back was down a narrow passage at the side, the door of which was always locked. The Bell in Northampton Street was in bad repair with terrible accommodation, the house was damp and the only cooking facilities were in an underground kitchen. The landlady of the Chequers Impington said it was the only place to get a good glass of beer and if it closed many a man would become a teetotaller. The Gravel Diggers was right down in Cottenham fen but there was a considerable amount of labour at certain seasons. The tenant had held the licence for 30 years. It was renewed . Also Priory Tap,

Melbourn White Horse, Guilden Morden Black Swan, Dry Drayton Prince of Wales, Swavesey Middle Watch & Black Horse, Soham Black Horse 11 07 14

1911 08 25

There was considerable excitement near Histon railway station on Wednesday evening when the Army monoplane which has been manoeuvring in the district was seen flying towards the village. Not being at a great altitude, the queer-looking machine was seen quite plainly and the public had a good view of it as it hovered towards Dry Drayton before finally alighted at the military manoeuvres camp at Hardwick 11 08 25g

1911 10 20

Ernest Terence Hooley, Papworth and Dry Drayton, bankruptcy hearing – 11 10 20a

1912 06 28

Terah Franklin Hooley, formerly of Dry Drayton, bankruptcy discharge refused – 12 06 28g

1913 02 14

County pubs closed: Cottenham Red Lion, Dry Drayton Five Bells, Girton White Horse, Harston Pemberton Arms, Over Black Horse & Sow & Pigs, Swavesey Little Rose & Willingham Black Lion

1914 05 22

The Wheel Came Off. — On Monday last, as one of Mr. Godfrey's trucks loaded with granite was being drawn by a traction engine up the causeway (Dry Drayton) one of the wheels came off, causing the whole to topple over. Fortunately no one was near at the time. – 14 05 22 CIPof

1914 11 27

Muffled Peal. — On Monday the church bells (at Dry Drayton) rang a muffled peal in memory of our brave soldiers and sailors who have so heroically lost their lives in the present war. The ringers were W. Blunt, J. Doggett, Harry Impey, F. Blunt and P. Williams. The village has responded fairly well to its country's call, but there are still a few strong healthy young men left who ought to enlist. 14 11 27

1914 11 27

Growth. A curious growth has taken place in the upper part of Dry Drayton during the last week. A number of toad-stools grew from the ceiling of a kitchen, there being about one dozen full-grown ones and some hundreds of young ones suspended from the plaster of the ceiling. 14 11 27

1915 11 17

Sidney Stearn, Dry Drayton missing – photo – 15 11 17a

1920 09 07

Dry Drayton serious fire, six stacks and farm buildings destroyed

1920 09 08

Crafts Hill Farm, Dry Drayton sold auction

1922 05 25

A heavy thunderstorm, which missed Cambridge, passed over the country districts accompanied by hail of enormous size. At Cottenham the deluge was most intense for about ten minutes. The hail stones measured 1 ½ (one-and -half) to 1 ¾ (one and three quarter) inches and some which were picked up were, it is said, as large as hen's eggs. Many panes of glass were broken in the greenhouses at Mr Gautrey's nurseries. Severe damage was done to

the strawberry and plum crops. Other villages including Dry Drayton were deluged with torrential rain and hail of unusual size. At Caldecote and Hardwick windows were broken and the hailstones are reported to have been the size of walnuts

1923 04 18

A Commission has been appointed by the Bishop of Ely to inquire into the desirability of uniting the beneficiaries of Madingley and Dry Drayton. They held a local inquiry when the question was fully considered. The congregation of Madingley was 50 in the morning and 60 in the evening. The Madingley churchwardens presented a petition bearing the signatory of 103 persons protesting and objecting to the two churches being united. Colonel Harding said, "I can tell you that as far as Madingley is concerned they would prefer that no union should take place"

1926 06 21

A Dry Drayton lad named Arthur Goodfield was playing with a ball on his way to school when it rolled into a hedge. On going to find it he found two coins lying in the soil and his teacher told him they were 5s. pieces. When school was done he returned to the spot and further search revealed sovereigns and half-sovereigns. A thorough search was later made by all the boys of the school and nearly £20 were recovered. The latest date on the coins is 1893 and they may be the proceeds of a burglary committed nearly 30 years ago

1926 08 30

The Coroner has heard from the Secretary of State about the disposal of coins found under a hedge at Dry Drayton by children. It had been suggested it was property stolen from the post office kept by a man named Frederick Walker in 1896 and been buried by the person who had stolen it. Neither the Treasury nor the Postmaster General proposes to claim the coins and agree they should be distributed among the finders.

1926 10 29

The Ministry of Health has been informed that in Dry Drayton meat, bacon and other foodstuffs sold from travelling motors and horse vans were contaminated by dust, petrol etc. The Council could do little in the matter. If the people found that their food was unclean they need not buy it from the vehicles about which the complaint was made.

1928 04 17

At Cambridgeshire magistrates court two Willingham men were convicted of stealing potatoes from their employer, farmer Thomas Langan, and each fined 10s. A London motorist was convicted of not having a road fund licence at Hauxton; the last licence had expired in June 1927; fined £10. A Dry Drayton man pleaded guilty to using a wireless set without a licence; he was unaware he needed one for a crystal set; fined 10s. Two Cottenham men were convicted of riding bicycles without lights and fined 7s.6d

1932 02 23

The Dry Drayton estate of T.F. Hooley may be converted into a Danish colony where the famous methods of Danish agriculture might be put into progress. There would be a great central demonstration farm with its own agricultural college catering for the produce of 500 acres. The majority of the 32 cottages on the estate will be sold to Danes and the rest made available for English smallholders wishing to learn their methods of farming. 32 02 23b

1933 04 29

Dry Drayton Three Horseshoes robbery – 33 04 29 & a

1935 03 01

A flight of three RAF aeroplanes were forced down near Cambridge. Two landed in rough fields near Dry Drayton and turned upside down. None of the pilots was injured. The other

made a forced landing at Smithy Fen, Cottenham. The flight was of a very recent pattern single-seater fighters and had taken off from Duxford to practice for the Hendon Air Pageant. They ran into thick fog and received wireless instructions to make a forced landing. The squadron leader mistook a field of wheat for grass and turned his plane completely over on the rough surface. His flying helmet was covered with mud as a result of his skidding along upside down 35 03 01

1937 12 09

The court heard of a dispute between a Dry Drayton farmer and Elijah Deamer, machinist and steam ploughing contractor of Hardwick. Charles Wilkinson of Madingley said he had been farming 55 years. The custom was for threshers to come round at the beginning of the harvest and do a little. Then they left and worked round. While they were absent the straw was used to thatch the stacks in readiness for the thresher's return. It was not unusual for them to be away two months and some did not thresh until after Christmas. 37 12 09

1944 12 20

Dry Drayton suitable site for Farm Institute – 44 12 20

1945 01 20

George Kidman of Dry Drayton on radio programme, talks of tractor driving – 45 01 20

1947 07 31

At the meeting of the Chesterton Rural District Council it was reported that a further three parishes (Coton, Fen Drayton and Lolworth) had been supplied with water mains. It was anticipated that the work involving the supply to Barton, Comberton, Toft, Haslingfield and Harlton would be put in hand during the coming year. Several parishes, notably Croxton, Eltisley, Graveley, Hardwick and Dry Drayton were extremely short of water for domestic and stock purposes and trouble was anticipated in the summer months. The position could not be improved until a new high level water tower was erected thereby affording sufficient pressure to enable a mains supply to be taken to these villages.

1948 10 04

The 1,200 villagers of Caldecote, Dry Drayton and Hardwick are "living on the edge of a volcano" and at any time a grave outbreak of disease might overtake them. So said Dr A. Morgan, M.O.H. to Chesterton rural district council at a public inquiry into plans to borrow £27,125 to defray the cost of works of a water supply for these parishes. At present the council have to cart something like 6,000 gallons of water a week to these parishes to supplement the meagre well supplies. At Caldecote, as a temporary measure, stand-pipe supplies have been provided at some points. The rest of the village was dependent upon stored rainwater and supplies carted by the Council

1954 08 16

The pilot of an RAF Vampire jet trainer from Oakington airfield was killed when his plane crashed into a cornfield at Dry Drayton. He succeeded in missing 18 Council houses and women picking fruit in a nearby orchard before the plane – smoke pouring from its tail – crashed into a field off the Oakington Road. It is thought the pilot might have been attempting to make a forced landing and crashed through a hedge before skidding along the ground for some distance. The engine and tail-plane were 40 yards apart but still intact after the crash

1956 12 21

Dry Drayton Mothers' Union will soon receive a new banner thanks to a Royston girl. Margaret Williams is a keen and able needlewoman who when she puts the final stitch will have spent 700 hours carefully embroidering the banner made of blue brocade with gold silk lettering and white cross surmounted with a sheaf of lilies. It is nothing less than a work of art. 56 12 21

1957 02 18

A farmer from Craft Hill Farm, Dry Drayton probably saved the life of a pilot who crashed in a Vampire jet aircraft in a field. He gave first aid to the airman who'd been thrown from the wreckage and was unconscious. He removed his harness, helmet, leggings and the watch from the pilot's swollen and discoloured arm. Then when an ambulance, a Jeep and a fire engine became bogged down he got a tractor and pulled them out. If the plane had exploded he'd have been blown sky high. 57 02 18

1957 04 01

When Dry Drayton School celebrated its centenary one of the earliest pupils, aged 89 and Katherine Dunn, a little girl aged five, sat side by side. Mr Berridge went to the school in 1873 and his memories provided material for a programme of entertainment. There was also a display of photographs. The last time anybody signed their name in the school register with a cross was in 1900, which was a mark of some progress. 57 04 01

1958 03 27

Dry Drayton bus shelters – 58 03 27

1962 05 21

The burial ground which surrounds Dry Drayton church is almost full and no longer adequate for the future requirements of the village. So an adjacent burial ground was consecrated by the Bishop of Ely. 62 05 21

1963 03 26

Plans have been drawn up to create a new village. The development at Bar's Farm, Dry Drayton, the first anywhere in the country for at least a century, would be undertaken by a private firm and envisages freehold and leasehold properties built to a high architectural standard to house about 3,000 people. A Board of Trustees would ensure it was completely self-supporting with its own shops. But some say that Lolworth, with a population of 90, should be developed instead to house about 6,000 people. It used to have about 400 houses until they were burned down in a great fire many years ago and nobody bothered to rebuild them. 63 03 26

1963 03 27

Proposals by Holland, Hannen and Cubitts for a new village at Bar's Farm, Dry Drayton are a 'unique concept'. Development would be phased over 15 years using materials sympathetic with the landscape but avoiding monotony of detail. A large proportion would be housing of a contemporary nature with a big area set aside for light industry. There would be nursery, primary and secondary education, shops, two public houses and a church together with a petrol filling station and motel. 63 02 27b & 63 03 29

1963 05 17

Cyril Phythian from Dry Drayton has, after tremendous effort, produced the delightful Solway cricket ground. It is one of the most picturesque for miles, entirely enclosed by small trees and flanked by his bungalow. The pitch was used for a time by the village cricket club but now has been adopted by the St Giles Cricket Club of Cambridge. Its cedar pavilion will be a place where cricketers can bring their wives and children for an afternoon out. 63 05 17

1964 08 26

Dry Drayton has more than its fair share of problems, villagers claim. It is lacking essential amenities and facilities. It has no recreation ground with swings and mothers of young children live in daily fear of the heavy lorries that speed through. The sewerage system is inadequate, buses infrequent and the aircraft from RAF Oakington fly low at night. Money has been raised for a new hall but nothing has been done, leaving just the old hut. "We have

to play bingo with gloves on in winter, it's so cold in there" one pensioner complains. 64 08 26a

1964 09 18

The country parsonage is changing. Once it was a sombre, imposing residence in spacious grounds. Now it is a dignified, modern house in more modest surroundings with central heating. A clergyman was an important figure in a village community, ranking with the squire. Now he is less well off than his neighbours. So the Diocese is building new homes and many a parson's lot has been improved. Six were completed in 1962, including at Wood Ditton and Lt Shelford. Now one at Dry Drayton is about to be occupied 64 09 18bb

1967 06 221

Dry Drayton new village hall opened – 67 06 21a

1974 10 09

If you're looking for home in the Cambridge or Huntingdon area there's really only one place to go. David Charles. Wherever you want to live and whatever you want to pay you are almost sure to find your perfect home. Orchard End, Bluntisham – around £12,500; all have four good-sized bedrooms, fitted kitchen and full gas-fired central heating. The Elms, Dry Drayton - 21 four-bedroomed luxury homes a mere 15 miles from Cambridge from £17 - £18,000. Lanes End, Hauxton offers you a host of good things like beautiful countryside, shops, schools, entertainment and very attractive homes at realistic prices – around £13,500 - Advert

1976 08 05

The Rev Richard Smart is both incumbent at Dry Drayton parish church and, along with the Rev Gladys Seymour, a Baptist Minister, deeply involved in the Bar Hill Church Centre. This ecumenical experiment is supported by a number of congregations, but does not mean it stages a series of incomprehensible, mixed up, hotchpotch-like services of an experimental nature. The church is a large airy, octagonal building and the altar table changes position according to taste and need. It has aroused considerable interest and the future direction of the Church may be determined by the sort of togetherness now thriving at Bar Hill.

1976 10 15

Council houses in south Cambridgeshire have suffered structural damage as an indirect result of the drought – and it may cost as much as £25,000 to put it right. Two houses in Elsworth have subsided so badly that the council are in favour of demolishing them. The long hot summer caused clay subsoils to shrink with the result that some foundations have settled and cracks have appeared. Cottenham and Dry Drayton are badly affected. Some houses are rectifying themselves with the wet weather. Doors which wouldn't shut now will and cracks are sealing themselves up. The committee authorised the underpinning of houses urgently in need of repair.

1978 08 14

The Black Horse at Dry Drayton has opened its doors again after a £30,000 facelift and a year spent empty and derelict. The pub was bought from the brewers, Whitbread, by 26-year old Paul Bowskill, who has installed a manager after spending eight months restoring the building. Now a free house the pub supplies Greene King real ale and hopes to get either Adnams or Ruddles in the future. By next week the pub should also be serving bar meals.

1986 11 04

Ambitious plans have been unveiled for 'Crow Green', a new town of up to 11,000 people near the junction of the A14 and A14 at Caxton Gibbet. The developers hope the busy A45 would be upgraded to dual carriageway all the way between Cambridge and the A1. This

follows other plans for a new town of 2,200 homes near Dry Drayton. These are some of 11 major bids for development just submitted to planners. 86 11 04

1983 07 01

The facilities and setting offered by boarding kennels are very different and price is not a guide to quality. Jason Farm Kennels at Caldecote, is priced at £2.50 a day for dogs of all sizes. Some charge extra for heating on cold days though Country Kennels at Dry Drayton (£2.25) don't usually heat kennels except in a very severe winter while Bridgefoot Farm Kennels at Flint Cross has a sizable grassy area for exercise but were most expensive at £3.31 plus 30p for heating

1990 04 02

The small industrial units at Scotland Road, Dry Drayton were originally built in 1907 as part of a 'model' farm which housed a herd of 150 milking cows. But when the Peck family transferred to completely arable farming they converted the buildings into light industrial 'starter' units 90 04 02